GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4131
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2000
REDUCTION IN FOREIGN TOURISTS ARRIVAL
GULAM MEHMOOD BANATWALLA

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in recent months there has been considerable reduction of foreign tourist arrivals in the country, particularly in Agra;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE: (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR)

(a) and (b): There has been consistent growth every month in tourist arrivals to India during the year 2000 as compared to the corresponding months of the previous years. However, as per the information furnished by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, there has been a marginal decline of visits of tourists to Agra. The decline in visits of foreign tourists to Agra may be due to preferences of tourists for one place over the other. The tourist arrivals to the country as a whole and visits of foreign tourists to Agra during the months of June, 2000 to September, 2000 are as given below:-

Tourist Arrivals in India			Visits of foreign tourists to Agra	
Year	1999	2000	1999	2000
June	1,53,225	1,68,716	6,146	5,959
July	1,89,045	2,04,969	10,444	9,554
August	1,84,808	1,89,902	18,561	18,267
September	1,69,200	1,81,292	16,574	15,974

(c): Development of tourist places for attracting tourists in any State is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. However, Department of Tourism, Government of India, promotes tourist places through improvement of tourist facilities, publicity and marketing efforts which include putting up of computer based tourist information kiosks at places of tourist attractions, creation of CD-ROM on important monuments, development of websites etc.